

Notices for 21 December 2025

Information about upcoming events, news and how to get involved below.

Patterns of worship [here](#), Children's [here](#), church calendar [here](#) and giving [here](#).

THIS WEEK AND NEXT AT ST MARK'S

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! See posters at the end of these notices for details of Christmas services

COLLECTIONS FOR FIR VALE FOODBANK AND CLOTHES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

Please leave donations for Fir Vale Foodbank in the boxes under the table by the vestry.

As we did last year, we are collecting warm clothing for women refugees in Sheffield. They badly need help, many have only the clothes they are wearing. Particularly needed are warm clothes in small women's sizes and NEW underwear in original packaging. Please leave any clothing on the table in the entrance corridor. Thank you.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS – Rather than sending all your friends at St Mark's an individual Christmas card this year, you could consider adding one to our congregational board at the back of church and donating the money to one of the charities we are supporting in our 25 days of action. If you do put cards for people in the pigeonholes by the library, please let the people you are sending them to know they are there so they pick them up, or arrange for someone else to deliver them to their house if they live nearby or are visiting them.

FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE CAROL SERVICE – Sunday 21st December. If you are able to contribute or help, please sign up on the board in the Narthex. Thank you. Briony

CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY: 4.30pm This is an informal service (approx 30 min) for all ages with carols and a telling of the Christmas story. Children are invited to be part of the Nativity as an angel, shepherd or wise person. To keep it simple, costumes are limited to headwear which you can bring yourself or they are provided before the start of the service. (tinsel, crowns, tea towels and the like) Prior to the service, from 4pm, there is a hot drink, a simple craft activity and sorting of headgear in the lounge.

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER

8 am – BCP Morning Prayer

7 pm TAIZE SERVICE WITH BRING AND SHARE FOOD BEFOREHAND Taizé prayer for night service is 4th Sunday in December between Christmas and new year. Come for quiet contemplative joyful space for time out in the midst of the festive season. We'll be meeting for shared food - please come without feeling you need to bring anything - at 5pm before the service at 7pm. All welcome

EPIPHANY PARTY – Sunday 4th January. Bring and Share Pizza Party after the morning service. Bring a pizza with you, to be cooked at church, by the team of volunteers.

NEWS:



DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD SUPPORTS POSTER CAMPAIGN FOR CHRISTMAS

New posters sharing Jesus' love for all this Christmas have been launched in the Diocese of Leeds. The Rt Revd Arun Arora, co-lead Bishop for Racial Justice for the Church of England and Bishop of Kirkstall, has launched a poster campaign sharing messages of hope and welcome to all this Christmas. The posters can be shown anywhere, but are designed to be seen at bus stops, telling people the good news of Jesus' birth and the love he brought into the world for all. This resource is also being made available in the Diocese of Sheffield, and is supported by our Racial Justice team.

Revd Anesia Cook, Racial Justice Officer for the Diocese of Sheffield, said:

'These posters remind us of the true meaning of the Incarnation, that God became flesh and entered our world as a vulnerable baby. Taking on flesh and entering a world composed of violence, now and then, is a radical act of becoming one with the underside of history, Christmas is the beginning of the Jesus story which invites us to reconsider God's love for us and for each other. Christmas invites us

too to "Love our neighbours as ourselves", we are called to treat others with the same care and respect we desire for ourselves, reflecting God's love and goodwill to all people, regardless of their place birth or the colour of their skin, during this Christmas season and beyond.'

For more information please click [here](#)

CONGRATULATIONS to Mark, Rachael and Keira on the recent arrival of Aidan Robert to their family. If you could offer to prepare a meal for the family on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 30 December and 15 January to support them when Mark returns to work, please contact Shan or Hannah for details of the Mealtrain. Thank you.

MARK'S MESSENGER DECEMBER ISSUE Out now! Read or download from the website or pick up a printed copy from the back of church.

TV INTERVIEW – For those of you who know Wendy Maas, you may like to watch Antiques Roadtrip which is being broadcast on BBC 1 on Friday 12 December at 16.30. Wendy was interviewed by Charles Hanson about her Great Great Grandmother Mrs Susan Sunderland who was known as the 'Calderdale Nightingale' and 'The Yorkshire Queen' and who sang for Queen Victoria. Her legacy continues through the 'Annual Mrs Sunderland Music Festival' in Huddersfield. You can also find the programme (Antiques Road trip Series 28:25 – Sing for your supper) on iplayer and Wendy features 12 minutes 45 seconds into the recording.

REITH LECTURES 2025 – Several people have recommended this years Reith Lectures called "Moral Revolution" which can be found on BBC Sounds. Rutger Bregman explores the moral decay and un-seriousness of today's elites, drawing historical parallels to past eras of corruption that preceded transformative movements especially the 19th Century campaign to abolish slavery. In his series, he argues that small, committed groups can spark moral revolutions, emphasizing the importance of perseverance and long-term vision. Bregman advocates for a new "realist utopia" in the face of rapid technological change, promoting ideas like Universal Basic Income, fairer taxation and responsible tech regulation. Finally, he zooms out to reflect on humanity's strange historical trajectory, warning of the existential risks posed by unchecked AI and urging privileged individuals to take on an active role in shaping a better future.

HELP NEEDED – DELIVERING WARM CLOTHES TO CHARITY FOR THE HOMELESS

We have some warm clothes sleeping bags etc that would be useful for a local charity. If you would be able to collect and deliver them, please contact the office.

ST MARK'S SOUP RUN – Volunteers and Leaders Required

The Soup Run has been operating for many years and provides food and drinks for those unfortunately living on the streets of the City. The number of people we serve varies from month to month, but a few months ago we served over 20 people on one evening.

Over the last few years our numbers have dwindled and we now have only one group going out each month. Prior to Covid we had sufficient numbers to cover every week and we would like to try and get back to that position.

As a volunteer you would be involved in preparing sandwiches and drinks in the kitchen at St Marks and then walking around the city centre serving anyone in need. If you are interested in becoming a Leader, you would be additionally responsible for liaising with team members and ensuring that there are adequate stocks of drinks & food.

The current group meets on Sunday evenings at 5pm and are generally finished before 7pm, a relatively modest commitment.

If you are interested a taster session can be arranged, the current team will be next out mid-January (date to be confirmed)

Contacts for further information

Paula Jones Mobile 07729 7414970 Email paulajones024@gmail.com

Tim Wilson Mobile 077659 15830 Email timwilsontring@yahoo.co.uk

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL GREEN BONDS: Sheffield Council has announced the launch of their Green Bonds:

“Sheffield Climate Investment is a new community-backed municipal investment scheme designed to bring together residents, businesses and the Council to fund practical, local climate projects.

From solar panels on schools to help cut bills, warmer homes and lower bills, Sheffield Climate Investment gives local people the opportunity to shape a greener, fairer future for the city.”

For more information see: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3crtv>

Michael Miller

LOST PROPERTY – The display and eventual sale of lost property will be postponed until the New Year.

STEEL CITY CHORISTERS INVITE ST MARK’S CONGREGATION to their 5th Birthday Party. Friday 23 January. RSVP at [this link](#) by 6th January



STEEL CITY CHORISTERS

5th Birthday Party

Friday 23 January, 6:00 to 11:45pm
(children welcome until 10:00pm)

Please come to celebrate our first five years,
with food, singing, and dancing at The Victoria, Neepsend

Please book at steelcitychoristers.org.uk/party
Suggested donation £20 per adult

THANKS FROM PHASE for St Mark’s continued support via our International Donations committee, and for supporting other fundraising efforts including the recent Nepali handcraft sale.

SEASON'S *greetings*



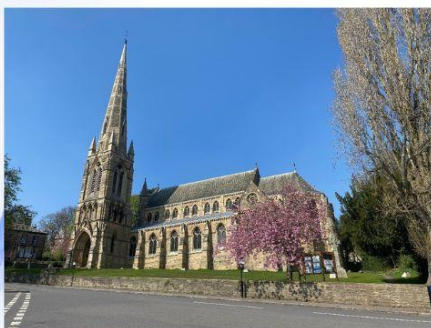
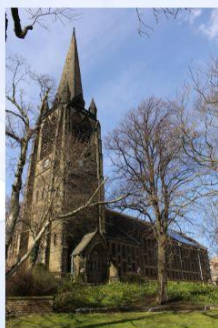
Thank you for your support this year!
We hope you have a wonderful festive season

from everyone at
PHASE WORLDWIDE



www.phaseworldwide.org

MISSION AREA WEEKEND IN 2026 – Following a successful gathering in 2024, we are delighted that St John's, St Mark's and St Mary's will be uniting to spend time together sharing food, fun, study and worship with activities suitable for all ages between 10 - 12 July 2026. Bishop Leah Vasey-Saunders has agreed to join the Mission Area for the day at St Mark's on Saturday 11 July and will confirm candidates from the Mission Area on the morning of 12 July at a service at St John's. Do save the weekend in your diaries. A planning group from across the 3 churches will convene in the New Year.



**Our 2026
3 Spires Mission Area Weekend
will be held over
10-12 July 2026**

***Bishop Leah Vasey-Saunders
will join us on 11 July***



**Do save the dates, and talk to
Alison Wragg, Ian Wallis or Shan Rush
if you can contribute ideas or can offer help
with planning**

HELP OUT:

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER –Would you be interested in joining the Church Library Group? The role is not onerous as the Library Group only meets up about two to three times a year. You would join their rota and be available to offer advice and support to library users at the main 10.00am Sunday service every couple of months or so. If you are interested, please contact Joe Forde, Church Librarian, [at joe.forde@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:joe.forde@tiscali.co.uk)

WELCOME TEAMS - would very much appreciate some additional help. If you would like to be involved (one morning every 6 weeks) in this role of welcoming people and serving refreshments, please speak to **Jean** or **Maria** or email jean_baxter5@hotmail.com. Thank you.

ADVENT

This year our advent theme, **25 Days of Action**, encourages us to turn reflection into compassion, justice, and solidarity. These actions are not tasks to complete but ideas for you to explore. Some suggestions are practical, some relational, some focused on advocacy. Whether offering support to those in need, speaking up for justice, or reaching out to someone who is struggling, each choice contributes to a wider movement of hope within our community. Read on to see all 25 ideas.

Advent 25 days of action

-  Switch one gift this year for a charitable donation instead.
-  Bring items to church for the food bank.
-  Write to your MP about child poverty or universal credit levels.
-  Donate money to the Children's Society at our Christingle Service.
-  Donate a sleeping bag or blanket to Ben's Centre or The Archer Project.
-  Join in with the Sandwich Run, giving out food and drink to those sleeping rough.
-  Volunteer with HARC, homeless and rootless at Christmas.
-  Read the Sheffield Poverty Truth Report, Finding the Root Cause.
-  Donate pre-loved items to ASSIST to furnish accommodation for those seeking asylum.
-  Contact your MP to urge for a fairer asylum system.
-  Find out about Lift the Ban campaign, consider how you could support this.
-  Find out about Hope at Home. Consider hosting a survivor of slavery.
-  Learn one new thing about the UK asylum system and share it on social media.
-  Join a peaceful vigil, protest or prayer walk.
-  Write for Rights. Write a letter with Amnesty International supporting political prisoners.
-  Read a book on liberation theology, poverty or social justice.
-  Invite a neighbour or church member who lives alone for tea or Sunday lunch.
-  Reduce your consumption.
-  Join in with or organise a litter pick around your community.
-  Practise 'buy less, give more' this Christmas.
-  Donate money to Amnesty, SAYiT, Hope at Home and USPG at our Christmas services.
-  Call or visit someone you know who might find this season difficult.
-  Donate baby and toddler clothing, bedding, toys, books and equipment to Baby Basics.
-  Pray for peace.
-  Join in with carol singing at a care home.

...to do justice, to love kindness, to walk humbly with your God.

www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH ST MARK'S CHURCH

21 December, 6pm

A Carol Service of traditional and contemporary
carols and readings
with St Mark's Choir & Steel City Choristers.

Christmas Eve 4.30pm

Nativity Service with hot chocolate from 4pm.

Christmas Eve 11.30pm

Candlelit service of carols, reflection,
prayer, and Communion.

Christmas Day

8am BCP Communion
in Church & on Zoom

10am Festive All Age Communion Service
in Church and on Zoom.

**St Mark's is an inclusive church offering
worship and hospitality where all are welcome**



FAMILY SERVICES THIS CHRISTMAS



Christmas Eve 4.30pm
Nativity Service
Craft and hot drinks at 4pm

A short service of carols
and telling of the Christmas Story.

Children are invited to be part of the Nativity
as an angel, shepherd or wise person.

Come in headwear (tinsel, crown, teatowel
etc) or come and borrow some at 4pm when
there will be crafts and hot drinks.

Christmas Day 10am
Festive All Age Communion Service
in Church & on zoom

@ St Mark's Church xx



IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY:



St Wilfrid's Centre is looking to recruit a new Director. Please see their website stwilfridscentre.org for the job description, person specification and application form. The closing date is midnight **Sunday 4th January 2026.**



St Hild Job Vacancies – deadline 6th January.

St Hild say

“Come and work with us!

We are recruiting for *Two Roles within our Operations Team:*

Operations Manager (.6 FTE)

Academic Registrar (.4 FTE)

Closing date for applications: Midnight, Tuesday 6th January 2025

Interview date and location: Wednesday 21st January, Mirfield or online

We are seeking an **Operations Manager** with key responsibilities in Finance and Compliance, along with an **Academic Registrar**. Both roles operate across all Centres and may be based at any site.

We are open to applications to combine both roles, which would equal a full-time post.

For more information on both roles and the recruitment pack, please go to sthild.org/jobs

Music Storytime – new class for under 5s - Fridays at 10am in the Upper Room, starting on 9 January. Visit littlesoundgarden.com for more information.

FROM OUR ENVIRONMENT GROUP:

ECO TIPS

Repair, Reuse, Recycle

We can't give a gift to baby Jesus but we can care for babies today by helping Baby Basics provide for the many babies and children under 5 who lack a cot, covers and clothing.



Be inspired by this cot blanket knitted by Rosalind Rogerson from leftover wool.

Could you knit a blanket or some baby clothes? In need of some support? Come to our monthly craft morning - more info from Jennie Martin. We have lots of wool in beautiful colours donated for us to use.

Eco tips from congregation members are welcome - please send them to the church office.